

Select Board Meeting Minutes 4/21/2021 7pm Virtual via ZOOM

Present: Select Board members Robert Agoglia, Tara Loomis, and David Shanabrook, Robert Rowell, Cydnie Reiman, and Susannah Carey.

Open: Select Board Chair Robert Agoglia opened the meeting at 7:00pm. Remote script read by Susannah Carey. All Board members confirmed present and town officials recognized.

Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from 4/7/2021, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, aye Tara Loomis, roll call unanimous.

Minutes from 4/14/2021 will be reviewed at 5/5/21 meeting.

Town Officials

Cydnie Reiman, CPC at-large elected member and Community Garden Committee Chair requests a meeting about financial record keeping accuracy in town. Parties involved include the Tax Collector/Treasurer June Massee, Accountant Gail Weiss, one Select Board member, CPC Chair Tilman Lukas, and Finance Committee Chair John Trickey. Cydnie also has heard the Planning Board Chair Judy Eiseman would be interested in a similar meeting as well. CPC records were not matching the Tax Collector/Treasurer/Accountant records in the office. Wendi Weinberg, Treasurer of the Community Garden Committee, has previously requested items from the Tax Collector/Treasurer with significant delays returning the requested information. Suggestion that Accountant could potentially take on board/committee requests for account information to alleviate June's workload. Gail Weiss will have more time after her retirement from the Town of Orange on December 31, 2021 to take on more responsibility in Pelham and help out the Tax Collector/Treasurer. The reconciliation of the books and certification of free cash is extremely time consuming for June and Gail. June Massee has suggested a program for seniors to work off their taxes by working in town and help June with the filing that has been piling up in the office. Suggestion to hire Temps as alternative. Select Board in support of meeting and of boards/committees reconciling on a quarterly basis. Select Board Chair Robert Agoglia will discuss the financial meeting with June and Gail first. Suggestion to continue with audits every two years. Last audit was in 2017.

Public Comment-none.

Liaison Reports

Building Inspector; Select Board member Tara Loomis; nothing to report other than the Wilson property issue still continues.

Fire Department; Select Board member Tara Loomis; nothing to report.

Highway Department; Select Board member Robert Agoglia; Superintendent out due to death in family. The Select Board will look into how to support/donate in his son's memory.

Police Department; Select Board member David Shanabrook; Placement of speed feedback sign on Amherst Rd settled and will be put near intersection with Arnold Rd prior to entering the Village Center.

The funds from the approved warrant article for the portable speed sign on the May 2020 Town Meeting are still available.

Town Offices; Select Board member Robert Agoglia; Daniel Robb, Moderator, conversed with Select Board Chair Agoglia and is comfortable with ATM warrant and logistics of Town Meeting.

Tree Warden; Select Board member David Shanabrook; nothing to report.

Old Business

Electric Charging Stations-Discussion of opportunity for State grant funds to support installation of charging stations that could potentially be placed at Library, Town Office, and/or School parking lots. The project(s) includes digging trenches for running power to the charging stations and the town paying for the electricity to power the stations. No solar arrays exist currently at any municipal building location to support the cost of electricity. At a previous Fall Town Meeting, a warrant article for installation of charging stations at the Library parking lot was not passed. Opposition from residents included issues like unknown demand, the Town's cost to power the stations, and limited parking concerns. Other discussion included carbon footprint and sustainability for town. Suggestion for electric charging stations to be installed at the low-income housing at the East end of Amherst Rd that is being developed by Home City Development. Select Board member David Shanabrook will make inquiry with Superintendent Michael Morris about possible charging stations for Pelham Elementary School parking lot. The Amherst Middle School parking lot has a few stations installed in the parking lot benefitting staff and visitor. President Biden's infrastructure bill could potentially fund projects such as this. More discussion at next Select Board meeting on May 5th.

Solar Inquiry-Select Board Chair Robert Agoglia noted that the Town has received a request for a 47-acre solar array off of Tower Rd with potential to produce electricity for about 1,800 homes. The Planning Board will be taking up this with the new solar bylaws in the future.

Time Reserved for Unanticipated Items-none.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:04pm, aye Robert Agoglia, aye David Shanabrook, aye Tara Loomis, roll call unanimous.

Documents Examined-none.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susannah Carey